AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing hollow alumina particles comprising the steps of:

generating micro-liquid droplets in an atomized state from an aqueous solution containing one of aluminum nitrate and aluminum acetate and one of a surfactant and an organic acid by irradiating the aqueous solution with supersonic waves;

selecting the generated micro-liquid droplets having a predetermined grain ~~sized~~ size or less by classification with an air stream;

introducing the ~~generated~~ selected micro-liquid droplets into the furnace; and

burning the ~~generated~~ selected micro-liquid in air.

Claim 2 (original): A method of producing hollow alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of aluminum nitrate or aluminum acetate is from 0.1 to 1.0 M.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method of producing hollow alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein one of 0.0005 to 0.05 mol of the surfactant and 0.03 to 0.5 mol of the organic acid is added to one mol of one of aluminum nitrate and aluminum acetate.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of producing hollow alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein the organic acid corresponds to one of citric acid, amino acid and maleic acid.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of producing hollow alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant corresponds to an olefinic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 2,500 to ~~6~~6,000.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method of producing hollow alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein the resultant hollow alumina particles are further re-burned.